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OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Application of :
Paul A. Ward et al : DECISION ON PETITION
Application No. 10/691,866 : UNDER 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3)
Filed: October 23, 2003 :
Attorney Docket No. CSLL-639CN(56247-) :

This is a decision on the petition, filed January 21, 2005, which is being treated under 37 CFR § 1.78(a)(3), requesting acceptance of an unintentionally delayed claim under 35 U.S.C. § 120 for the benefit of the prior-filed nonprovisional Application No. 09/837,827, filed April 18, 2001, as set forth in the amendment filed concurrently with the instant petition.

The petition is **DISMISSED AS MOOT**.

A petition under 37 CFR § 1.78(a)(3) is only applicable to those applications filed on or after November 29, 2000.

Along with the instant petition under 37 CFR § 1.78(a)(3), petitioner has submitted an amendment to the first sentence of the specification following the title to include a reference to the prior-filed applications.

The instant pending nonprovisional application was filed on October 23, 2003, and was pending at the time of filing of the instant petition. Reference to the prior-filed application was made in the transmittal letter filed with the instant application.

The current procedure where a claim for priority under 37 CFR § 1.78(a)(3) is not included in the first sentence of the specification or in an ADS but does appear either in the oath or declaration or a transmittal letter filed with the application and the Office notes the claim for priority, no petition will be required to accept a late claim for priority. This is because the application would have been scheduled for publication on the basis of the information concerning the claim submitted elsewhere in the application within the time period set forth in 37 CFR § 1.78(a)(2)(ii). However, on the other hand, if the USPTO does not note the claim for priority to the prior-filed application(s) set forth in the oath or declaration or transmittal letter submitted with the application, a petition will be required to accept a late claim for priority under 37 CFR § 1.78(a)(3).¹ In the instant case, the Office noted the claim for priority of the above-noted, prior-filed application in the transmittal letter filed with the application, as shown by its inclusion on the filing receipt.

¹ Note MPEP 201.11 (V), page 200-75 (Rev. 1. Feb. 2004 and 66 Federal Register 67087 at 67089 (Dec. 28, 2001), effective December 28, 2001.

In view of the above, no petition fee is required and none has been charged.

Any questions concerning this decision on petition may be directed to Wan Laymon at (571) 272-3220. All other inquiries concerning either the examination procedures or status of the application should be directed to the Technology Center.

This matter is being referred to the Examiner of Technology Center AU 2631 for processing of the request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114 and for appropriate action on the amendment filed January 21, 2005, including consideration of the claim under 35 U.S.C. § 120 and 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2) for benefit of the above-noted, prior-filed application.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Frances Hicks".

Frances Hicks
Lead Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions
Office of the Deputy Commissioner
for Patent Examination Policy